

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# PPDC Pollinator Protection Plan Metrics WG - Meeting Minutes

4/13/2017

## Attendees:

(in person) Mike Goodis, Lead; Meredith Laws; Tom Steeger; Dee Colby; Cathryn Britton  
(phone) Stephanie Binns (for Aaron Hobbs), Ray Brinkmeyer, Michele Colopy; Mark Dykes, David Epstein, Jim Fredericks; Dudley Hoskins; Rose Kachadoorian; Don Parker; Peg Perreault; Caydee Savinelli; Julie Shapiro; Al Summers; Tom Van Arsdall; Andy Whittington

## Agenda (attached)

### Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda Review – Mike/Dee

Workgroup members introduced themselves.

### Review of Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2017 - Dee

Meeting minutes were finalized from the March meeting and will be posted on the PPDC website.

### Report from the Metrics Subgroup – Don Parker and Julie Shapiro

Subgroup members reviewed the progress of the group to date and the variety of resources that were used to formulate a metric. They chose to expand on a point system and incorporate a rubric approach in the assessment of MP3 plans, to produce a national perspective of states' accomplishments. A rubric, often used in education, lists specific criteria for scoring projects or in our case, states' efforts to mitigate acute risk to managed bees and/or improve conditions for pollinators via MP3 plans. This is not a pass/fail grading of state plans. In fact, the perspective is to give credit where credit is due (i.e., what have the states done). This type of metric would allow for observations of improvements over time, and also provide the public with each state's progress in relation to a national score. States may still need to survey stakeholders in order to generate the data for rating themselves within the rubric. The EPA would then pool the states' scores to produce a national score.

Potential categories within the assessment, based on common themes of MP3s, would be: engagement of stakeholders and local participation, evidence of educational outreach, communication, development of BMPs, progress measures, etc. Options within each category would also serve to provide ideas for expansion of state plans.

### Discussion of proposed metrics – Metrics Subgroup facilitated

Dialogue continued from the Subgroup report. A question was asked about what process is envisioned by the Subgroup for the individual states. It was suggested that the states really need to assess themselves because it would be difficult to score the states from an outsider's perspective. The states know and can tally their progress better from within. Incident reports were brought up and whether or not they have a place in the metric; however, the data varies so widely from state to state and it was decided not include this as a category in the metric.

The Subgroup was hearing support for their proposed metric and it was decided to refine the approach further. Mike pointed out that the Workgroup is at a good point to get feedback from the full PPDC about the proposed approach. The Subgroup will have a shortened version of the presentation for the PPDC and a longer, working, version for the Workgroup.

**Meeting Recap – Dee**

Metrics Subgroup (Subgroup II), going forward:

- 1) Caydee Savinelli volunteered to coordinate the Metrics Subgroup until the May meeting,
- 2) the Subgroup will put together a shortened version of the presentation for introduction to the full PPDC,
- 3) Workgroup members will provide the Subgroup with any issues/concerns over the proposed metric for discussion during the May meeting,
- 4) Mark Dykes will participate in the Subgroup, and
- 5) Dee will confirm that Claudio Gratton from WI will present during the May meeting.

In-Person Meeting...May 2, 2017 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (full PPDC Meeting May 3-4, 2017). A call-in option will be provided for those who will not be attending in person. Note: Accounts are being created for Workgroup members to have Wi-Fi access during the meeting.

## Pollinator Protection Plans Metrics PPDC Workgroup

Call-In Meeting 4/13/2017 1:30 – 3:00 pm

1-866-299-3188; 703-347-8657

Adobe connect:

<http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/r377g1d4o34/>

The objective of this meeting is to discuss potential metrics to recommend to the EPA.

### Agenda:

**Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda Review** – Mike (10 min)

*Workgroup members and participants will introduce themselves.*

**Review of Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2017** - Dee (5 min)

*Finalize meeting minutes from the March meeting. March Meeting Minutes are attached.*

**Report from the Metrics Subgroup** – Don Parker and Julie Shapiro (30 min)

*Don and Julie will present the continued progress of the Subgroup's efforts this past month in developing a framework for a proposed survey and/or point system approach to measuring success of all States' plans. A draft point system spreadsheet is attached.*

**Discussion** – Metrics Subgroup facilitates (40 min)

**Success of the Workgroup to best represent stakeholder viewpoints depends on Workgroup member feedback and input.** *That being said, the group will continue their discussion of survey and point system approaches as possible metrics options for the EPA. Possible questions for discussion:*

- *Have data gaps been identified?*
- *Is additional information from experts (e.g. Extension Services) required in order for the group to refine the proposed metric(s) and/or resolve the selection of one approach over the other?*
- *What preparation is needed over the next few weeks for our presentation to the full PPDC in May?*

*Check-in: Do Workgroup members support the proposed metric(s)? If not, what are sources of dissatisfaction with the proposed metric(s)? The idea is to poll Workgroup members via email and receive responses prior to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Workgroup will then discuss and work through issues during the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.*

*Work Plan feedback: Does the Workgroup have any feedback on the revised work plan from April – November 2017. Should anything else be included/revised/omitted? Refer to the Work Plan (below).*

**Meeting Recap** – Dee (5 min)

*Review any action items*

*In-Person Meeting...May 2, 2017 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (full PPDC Meeting May 3-4, 2017). A call-in option will be provided for those who will not be attending in person. Note: Accounts are being created for Workgroup members to have Wi-Fi access during the meeting.*

**Objective:**

The workgroup is charged with developing: 1) recommendations for how to evaluate/measure the effectiveness of state- and tribal-recognized pollinator protection plans at the national level; and, 2) a strategy to communicate that effectiveness to the public (defined broadly). The workgroup's goal is to make final recommendations to the full PPDC by fall of 2017.

**Background:**

President Obama's 2014 Presidential Memorandum creating a federal task force to develop a national strategy to promote the health of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and other pollinators directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to engage states and tribes in the development of pollinator protection plans. In the National Strategy document written in response to the President's directive, EPA identified managed pollinator protection plans (MP3) as an effective means of increasing communication between stakeholders and mitigating acute exposures of bees to pesticides. Since that time, multiple efforts have been underway to assist in the development and evaluation of these plans including:

- MP3 Symposium Evaluation Session Summary: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/MP3-Evaluation-Summary.pdf>
- SFIREG Guidance for Development and Implementation of MP3s: <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/sfireg-mp3-guidance-final.pdf>
- SFIREG Performance Measures Guidance: <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/sfireg-joint-working-committee-performance-measures-for-mp3-meeting-revision-clean-up.pdf>

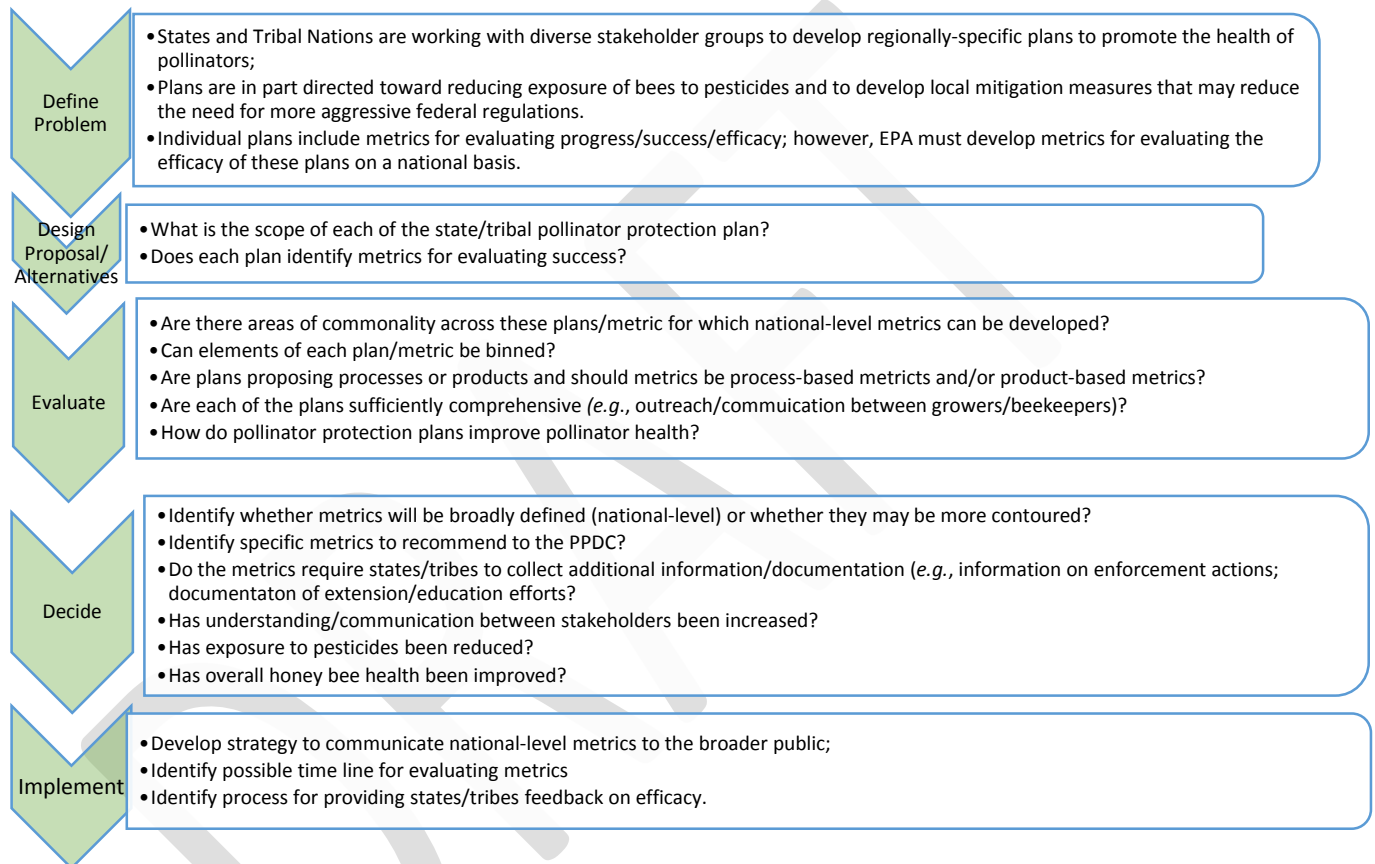
EPA is continuing to identify measures to reduce acute and chronic exposure of both *Apis* and non-*Apis* bees to pesticides through federal and state labels; however, there is general recognition that additional efforts, which extend beyond advisory and/or compulsory label language, can be implemented on the state/tribal level to increase communication and collaboration between stakeholders to promote pollinator health. With respect to pesticides, efforts to enhance communication between growers/applicators and beekeepers is considered an important component of evolving plans.

As identified in the *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators* (National Strategy), EPA committed to working with states/tribes on the development of MP3s, and the majority of these plans have thus far focused on managed honey bees. However, in the 2012 White Paper presented to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel and in subsequent harmonized guidance documents from EPA and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency, the honey bee is considered a surrogate for non-*Apis* (e.g., native bees); therefore, measures intended to be protective for honey bees are considered likely to be protective for non-*Apis* bees and other insect pollinators even though the biology of these species may differ. Although honey bees continue to be the focus of managed pollination, some non-*Apis* species of bees are also managed (e.g., bumble bees, mason bees, leaf-cutter bees) to provide pollination services. However, the 2007 NRC publication on the *Status of Pollinators in North America* as well as in the 2015 *Pollinator Research Action Plan* reiterate that there is insufficient baseline information to evaluate status and trends in non-*Apis* species.

With respect to declines in some pollinator species and particularly honey bees, while there are multiple factors (e.g., pests, pathogens, pesticides, poor nutrition, weather) associated with declines, no single factor has been identified as a cause. Given EPA's role in regulating pesticides though and the use of these

products in agriculture, it is reasonable that a focus on MP3 would center on reducing exposure to these products; however, state and tribal efforts are not restricted to focusing on pesticides alone but can include efforts to address other factors as discussed in the National Strategy and the 2016 Public-Private Partnerships Action Plan. Similarly, whereas the focus is largely on honey bees, efforts to enhance other specific pollinators can be highlighted.

EPA recognizes that national-level metrics to evaluate a wide diversity of state/tribal plans is challenging given that the plans are likely to vary in scope (**Figure 1**). Consideration should be given to identifying process-based metric and product-based metrics.



**Figure 1. Evaluating the efficacy of state/tribal pollinator protection plans.**

## Workplan

| Project Stage | Description of Project Stage   | Deliverable   |             |
|---------------|--|---|-------------|
| 1<br>✓        | Identify number of completed plans and whether they have been implemented                          | Update the Excel spreadsheet (Association of American Pesticide Control Officials [AAPCO])  | 20 Nov 2016 |
| 2<br>✓        | Identify scope of each state/tribal plan and whether plans have associated metrics?                | <p>List of processes/products identified in each state/tribal plan and their associated metrics.</p> <p>Determine whether plans identified extent to which stakeholders were engaged.</p> <p>Are plans responsive to SFIREG/AAPCO guidance? Tribal template?</p> <p>Do the plans focus on managed bees alone or include other pollinator species? If other pollinator species are included, identify.</p>   | 28 Nov 2016 |
| 3<br>✓        | PPDC Workgroup Update  | Status Check (PPDC workgroup conference call). Provide overview of existing plans.  | 1 Dec 2016  |
| 4<br>✓        | Evaluate processes/products associated with each plan for areas of commonality. Can binning occur? | <p>Subgroup to identify areas of commonality? If binning is possible, identify common themes (bins).</p> <p>Are there common metrics which can be associated with these themes?</p>   | Jan 2017    |
| 5<br>✓        | Identify process- and product-based metrics?   | <p>List of process- (e.g., educational programs) and product-based (e.g., number of colonies registered) metrics.</p> <p>Develop list of possible existing resources for measuring change at a regional and/or national level.</p> <p>Are sufficient measures in place across states/tribes to document change, e.g., bee kill incident investigation/reporting; numbers of managed colonies (National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS] survey data; beekeeper association databases); pollinator health estimates (Bee Informed Partnership [BIP] survey; USDA Animal and Plant Health</p> | Feb 2017    |

|        |   |   |          |
|--------|---|---|----------|
|        |   | <p>Inspection Service [APHIS] survey; state apiary inspector reports)</p> <p>Identify means of measuring outcomes?</p> <p>Are there financial constraints to collecting information/data?</p>   |          |
| 6<br>✓ | Outreach  | <p>Conference call with NASS to discuss current/additional measurement tools (<i>e.g.</i>, survey questions).</p> <p>Conference call with BIP (Dennis vanEngelsdorp/Karen Rennick) to discuss current/additional measurement tools (survey questions).</p>  | Jan 2017 |
| 7<br>✓ | Identify tools to quantify how MP3s reduce acute inadvertent exposure of managed pollinators to pesticides. | <p>Form subgroup to identify pollinator health metrics. Develop list of general measures (<i>e.g.</i>, overwintering success; incidence of disease; incidence of CCD).</p> <p>Conference calls with USDA APHIS/ARS and BIP to determine possible metrics.</p> <p>Evaluate NASS, Bee Informed Partnership, APHIS databases to determine extent to which pollinator losses are affected.</p> <p>SFIREG Survey on enforcement actions; similar state survey.</p> <p>American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) survey tools.</p> <p>Evaluate California Pesticide Use Report or similar use/market report data to determine changes in use.</p> <p>Discussion with State Apiary Inspector where appropriate.</p> | Feb 2017 |
| 8<br>✓ | Are other factors beyond pesticide exposure addressed in plans?   | <p>What are realistic metrics for evaluating efficacy of additional mitigation measures that extend beyond pesticides (<i>e.g.</i>, increased number of acres devoted to pollinator habitat; increase in CRP; decreased incidence of pests/disease).</p>  |          |

|         |   |   |         |
|---------|---|---|---------|
|         | PPDC Workgroup Update   | Status Check (PPDC workgroup conference call). Provide overview of potential metrics and options for collecting data.   | Feb     |
| 9<br>✓  | Do plans have short-comings that may dictate further development? | Identify particular limitations/data gaps of state/tribal plans.  | Feb     |
| 10<br>✓ | Are additional Stakeholder Inputs Needed to the WG?               | Examples of other stakeholders that could provide input:<br>CA DPR Pesticide Use Reporting System<br>Fieldwatch (formerly Driftwatch)<br>EPA, Tribe, or State Bee Incident Data<br>Grower Groups on their BMPs (e.g. almonds and soy) | March   |
| 11      | What feedback should the PPDC WG ask for from the full PPDC?      | Obtain input from Metrics Team<br>Have we collected enough input on possible measures?<br>Have we thoroughly vetted state and tribe plans for measures and common themes?<br>Has the WG made use of all state and tribe information?  | March   |
| 12      | Develop proposal to PPDC on a path forward for a national measure | Prepare presentation for PPDC<br>Prepare questions for PPDC<br>Prepare backup supporting information  | April   |
| 13      | Interim Face to Face meeting of WG                                | Prepare for PPDC presentation<br>Develop process to move forward to present to PPDC   | May 2   |
| 14      | Interim Report to Full PPDC                                       | PPDC Committee Meeting  | May 3,4 |
| 15      | Review Results of Full PPDC                                       | Develop Workplan for May to Oct WG Meetings   | May     |

|    |   |  |                   |
|----|---|--|-------------------|
|    |   | Move Forward on metric recommendations of full PPDC<br>Define the metric |                   |
| 16 | <b>Define metric to be moved forward</b>    | Build framework on design of metric<br>Validate metric against criteria  | June              |
| 17 | <b>Build Workplan</b>                       | Define workplan to finish by November                                    | July to September |
| 18 | <b>Final Face to Face Meeting of WG</b>     | Finalize Presentation to full PPDC in Nov                                | Oct               |
| 19 | <b>Final Work Product Presented to PPDC</b> | PPDC Full Committee Meeting  | Nov 8,9           |